United Nations

Press Release

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General to visit Tehran on Monday, 10 September, for talks on Afghanistan and Iran-Iraq situations; will also travel to Paris to attend first Advisory Committee meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa.

- Preparatory Committee for 1992 "Earth Summit" ends session in Geneva.

- Secretary-General announces formation of Special High Level Council for Natural Disaster Reduction Decade.

- $6.4 million in new pledges to Cambodian Assistance Programmes announced at donors meeting at headquarters.

- Vienna Conference calls for reinforcement of nuclear regulatory oversight; sees possibility of enacting international safety convention.

- New Permanent Representative of Namibia presents credentials.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar will leave New York over the weekend for Paris where he will attend the first Advisory Committee meeting of the global Coalition for Africa.

On Monday, 10 September, he will leave Paris for Tehran at the invitation of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Tehran, the Secretary-General will hold meetings with the President, relative to the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987) on Iran/Iraq. He will also participate in a tripartite meeting with the Presidents of Iran and Pakistan on the situation in Afghanistan.

On Thursday, 13 September, the Secretary-General will leave Tehran for Saudi Arabia for talks with the authorities there and with officials of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on resolution 598 and on Afghanistan.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar is expected to return to Headquarters on Sunday, 15 September.

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The Committee preparing for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on Wednesday concluded its third substantive session in Geneva, agreeing to continue negotiations on proposals intended to acheive environmentally sound, sustainable economic development in all countries.

In his concluding remarks, the Secretary-General for the 1992 Conference, Maurice Strong, said the Preparatory Committee had laboured long and hard under difficult conditions. However, he said, it had "moved a long and positive step towards success in Rio de Janeiro".

Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Tommy Koh of Singapore, also characterized the session as a success. He said agreement had been reached on human settlements and substantial progress had been made on "the difficult issues" of finance for sustainable development in developing countries and on the transfer of environmentally sound technology.

The Committee agreed on a framework for Agenda 21, which will serve as a blueprint for action into the twenty-first century to ensure sustainable development in all areas where economic activity impacts on the natural environment.

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The Secretary-General today announced the establishment of the Special High Level Council for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The members of the Council are: Prime Minister M. Eugenia Charles of Dominica; Princess Chulabborn Mahinol of Thailand; Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda of Japan; Former President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado of Mexico; Susan Mubarak of Egypt; Idé Oumarou of Niger; Lisbeth Palme of Sweden; Marilyn Quayle of the United States; Janez Stanovnik of Yugoslavia; and M.C. Zalikhanov of the Soviet Union.

The Council members will advise the Secretary-General on the Decade; promote public awareness of the potential for disaster reduction; and mobilize the support of the public and private sectors towards the objectives of the Decade.

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New pledges amounting to $6.4 million for the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) and programmes assisting displaced persons in Cambodia were made yesterday at a meeting of donors to the Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes. In-kind contributions valuing $1.1 million were also pledged.

(more)

Of the cash contributions, $6 million was pledged by Japan and $400,000 by Germany. France pledged in-kind contributions including 4,000 tons of grain for the relief effort.

In a statement at the meeting, Shah A.M.S. Kibria, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Coordination of Cambodian Humanitarian Assistance Programmes, stressed the importance of continuing support pending the final resolution of the political situation in that country.

He said support was needed for the massive repatriation operation in particular, to improve the food and security situation in the border camps.

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The need to strengthen and integrate international approaches to all aspects of nuclear safety was underlined by over three hundred experts from more than 40 countries and ten international organizations at a one-week Conference which ended in Vienna today.

The Conference, held at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) headquarters, expressed support for intensifying international safety services such as the IAEA's ASSET (Assessment of Safety Significant Events Team) and OSART (Operational Safety Review Team) missions. It also advocated promoting the achievement of sufficient national regulatory oversight, and using tools such as the seven level International Nuclear Event Scale, to better inform the media and the public, should incidents occur.

There was also agreement on exploring ways of bolstering the international nuclear safety regime, including a step-by-step approach that might ultimately include a framework international safety convention.

During the Conference the delegation of the Soviet Union offered to open its RBMK (Chernobyl-type) reactors for an international safety assessment by the IAEA, similar to the IAEA's current assessment of the VVER 440-230 reactors in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

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Tunguru Huaraka, the new Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, has presented his credentials to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

Since 1980, Mr. Huaraka has been a human rights officer at the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, as well as Secretary of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. He began his career in 1968 as legal adviser to the International Publishing Corporation. From 1971 to 1974, he was lecturer in law at the University of Dar es Salaam. During that period, he served for two years as associate editor of the Eastern Africa Law Review.

Mr. Huaraka earned his doctorate in political science at the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva, which he attended from 1974 to 1979. He holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ghana at Accra and a Master of Laws degree from the University College London.

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